

Application No.10/747,793
Amendment dated: January 22, 2007

Docket No.: JNT/01

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claim 21 has been amended. The amendment does not add new matter.

Claims 2, 8, and 12 were canceled in a previous amendment.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-11 and 13-21 are pending in this application.

II. Acknowledgement of Allowable Subject Matter

I acknowledge the Patent Office's indication that claims 1, 3-7, 9-11 and 13-20 are allowed.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claim 21, which was indicated as allowed in the September 8, 2006 Official Action, now stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,120,968 to Huene et al.

Claim 21 has been amended to recite that the prong cover comprises "a top end and an open bottom proximate the top end, the open bottom to receive the prong; and at least one tab hingedly depending from the open bottom and terminating in a free end opposite the top end." This amendment distinguishes the present invention from Huene because Huene's leg 68 depends from the top end or portion or leg 66 and not from the open bottom which receives the prong, as recited in amended claim 21. Additionally, to more clearly define the tab in view of Huene, I have further amended claim 21 to recite that the tab terminates "in a free end opposite the top end" as shown in figures 3a, 5a and 7a of my published patent application. I respectfully submit that Huene cannot be construed to read on claim 21 in view of these amendments nor would modification of Huene be obvious in view of the prior art. Furthermore, neither Hillmer-Mann nor Radmall teach or suggest that which is lacking in Huene. Accordingly, I respectfully request the above rejection be withdrawn and the case passed to issue.

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CONCLUSION

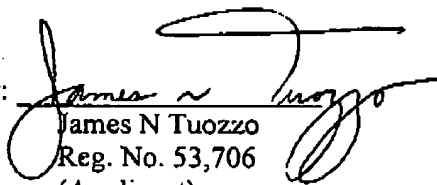
In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either, a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Dated: January 22, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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